

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (U.S. Patent No. 5,865,223). Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over Walker and the other references of record.

Amended independent claims 1 and 7 are now more specifically directed to providing video consultations. For example, Claim 1 now includes providing to the client and the choice of consultants a real-time secure video consultation environment. Similarly, Claim 7 now includes a consultation module which is configured to provide a real-time secure video communication environment. In addition, both Claims 1 and 7 both describe providing a liability limiting agreement and recording acceptance or assent to the agreement.

Walker does not teach or suggest such a system. For example, Walker does not teach or suggest that consultation can take place in a real-time secure video consultation environment. In fact, Walker has no description of a video conferencing capability. It appears that the closest Walker comes to any type of real-time response system is the use of a message window. Walker describes typing questions and answers which appear in the window by the client and consultant respectively. However, the majority of Walker teaches away from real-time video interaction. For example, all of the example applications of the interaction provided by Walker (Col. 11, lines 13-56) are requests for written responses to be provided at a later date. Walker's approach is not suitable, for example, to psychological counseling which requires real-time interaction. Therefore, it would not be obvious to attempts to modify Walker to provide for real-time video consulting.


In addition, it was alleged in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to modify Walker to provide a liability limiting agreement. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion. Applicant notes that no reference has been provided which teaches or describes a system or method which provides to the client a liability limiting agreement and records the client's assent to such an agreement. In the absence of the citation to a specific reference with such a teaching, applicant cannot assess whether such teaching comes from analogous art or can properly be combined with Walker. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the reference of record do not anticipate or make obvious the invention of Claims 1 and 7.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned if he has any questions or issues with respect to the above amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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